

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 3063.0396-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

John E. EBY et al.

Serial No. 09/287,631

Filed: April 7, 1999

For: SURFACE COVERINGS HAVING A
NATURAL APPEARANCE AND
METHODS TO MAKE A SURFACE
COVERING HAVING A NATURAL
APPEARANCE



Group Art Unit: 1732

Examiner: A. Kuhns

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND
CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the events recited in Section 1.97(b) but, to the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of either a Final Action or a Notice of Allowance. Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement includes a certification as specified by Section 1.97(e).

Each document listed in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from the European Patent Office in a counterpart application, and this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the mailing date of that communication.

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240.00 CH Copies of the listed documents are attached.

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Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

In lieu of a statement of relevance or translation of the non-English documents, an English language version of a search report from the European Patent Office in a corresponding application citing these documents and setting forth the relevance thereof is enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

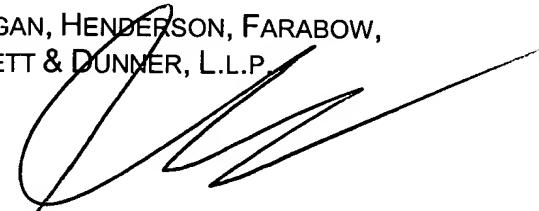
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

By:


Michael R. McGurk
Reg. No. 32,045

Dated: October 12, 1999